

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125247 TOSEC 050027
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER:RDP
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S/S-O: SGOLDSMITH
-----312215Z 012228 /15
O 312158Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS (TRATTNER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING MAY 31

NO. 4

1. MAIN INTEREST AT BRIEFING WAS IN PRESS REPORTS QUOTING
PRESIDENT AS EXPECTING IMPROVEMENT SHORTLY IN TIES WITH
CUBA, AND TODMAN THAT U.S. HAS PROPOSED TO CUBA ESTABLISH-
MENT OF INTEREST SECTIONS. ASKED ABOUT THESE, I SAID WE
VERY RECENTLY RESUMED TALKS WITH CUBANS IN NEW YORK ON THIS
SUBJECT, THAT WE HOPE TO HAVE ANNOUNCEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE
BUT ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ONE NOW, AND THAT WE REMAIN IN
TOUCH WITH CUBANS. TO QUESTION WHETHER CUBAN ACTIVITY IN
AFRICA HAS ANY SLOWING EFFECT ON IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS
WITH CUBA, I SAID OUR PURPOSE IN EXCHANGING INTEREST SECTIONS
WOULD BE TO IMPROVE CHANNELS FOR DISCUSSING MATTERS OF
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CONCERN TO US OR TO CUBANS, AND FACT WE HAVE DIFFERENCES
IS PRECISELY THE POINT OF HAVING INTEREST SECTIONS. (TO
NBC LATER, I ADDED THAT SUBJECT WAS FIRST RAISED BY TODMAN
IN FIRST NEW YORK TALKS, WHEN CUBANS WERE UNPREPARED TO
DISCUSS IT. MATTER WAS FIRST DISCUSSED IN HAVANA LATER,
FOLLOWED BY U.S. PRESENTATION TO CUBANS IN WRITING OF
ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON INTEREST SECTION CONCEPT. THEN

FOLLOWED LATEST NEW YORK TALKS.)

2. ON ETHIOPIA REQUEST FOR FURTHER REDUCTION IN U.S. PRESENCE, I REPEATED OUR STATEMENT OVER WEEKEND THAT, PRIOR TO ETHIOPIAN REQUEST, WE HAD INFORMED ETHIOPIANS OF OUR PLANS TO REDUCE AMERICAN PRESENCE BY END OF JULY. NUMBER OF AMERICANS AFFECTED -- SEVEN IN DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE AND ABOUT 30 OTHERS IN EMBASSY -- WOULD BRING LEVEL TO APPROXIMATELY WHAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED. NO AMERICANS HAVE YET LEFT, AND ALL ARE SCHEDULED AS OF NOW TO DEPART BY COMMERCIAL AIR.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, I EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AT RHODESIAN RAID ACROSS MOZAMBIQUE BORDER AND AT NEGATIVE EFFECT IT COULD HAVE ON OUR EFFORTS WITH BRITISH TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIA PROBLEM. I SAID WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO RHODESIANS WE DISAPPROVE OF THEIR CROSS-BORDER MILITARY ACTIONS WHICH WE FEEL ONLY COMPLICATE OR HINDER THE NEGOTIATING EFFORT.

4. ON STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS (PRESIDENT'S MAY 26 NEWS CONFERENCE) I SAID U.S. POSITION REMAINS AS STATED BY YOU LAST FRIDAY. ASKED WHETHER RABIN CRITICISM OF U.S. ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS IS PROPER OR LEGITIMATE, I REFUSED TO CHARACTERIZE.

5. QUESTION WAS TAKEN WHETHER THE EXTRA 375 MILLION DOLS FOR POOREST COUNTRIES MENTIONED BY SECRETARY IN CIEC SPEECH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS TO BE PART OF FISCAL 1978 FOREIGN AID FUNDS OR SPREAD OVER LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

6. ON REPORTS GERARD SMITH IS TO BE NAMED AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR HIGH-LEVEL NON-PROLIFERATION NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH FRONTPAGED BY NYTIMES TUESDAY) I SAID ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUCH APPOINTMENT WOULD COME FROM WHITE HOUSE AND THAT WE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER ON IT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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